

# St. Pat's Pulse

Volume 6,  
Issue 9

May 23, 2012



## *Upcoming St. Patrick School Events:*

### May 23

Gr. 3 & 4 students to Water Festival in Timmins. Bus @ 7:30 a.m.

### May 25

Popsicles for sale @ lunch .50 and 1.00

### May 28-June 8

Grade 4 & 5 swimming program from 9:00-10:00 daily

### May 29-June 1

Grade 8 Educational Trip to Toronto

### May 29, 30, 31

Junior EQAO assessment (Gr. 6)

### May 31

Catholic School Council meeting is CANCELLED

### June 1, 4, 5

Primary EQAO assessment (Gr. 3)

### June 6

Snowbirds at Kapuskasing airport Grade 3-6 @ 1pm

### June 11

Professional Development Day—No school for students

### June 13

Planting pollination garden with OPG

### June 26

-Mass at 9:00

-Grade 8 Graduation ceremony @ 7pm St. Patrick Church

### June 27

Final day of school. Enjoy your summer vacation!

## From the Principal's Desk

### Thank-you

I would love to take this opportunity to say a big "thank-you" to Mrs. Bergeron who was the acting administrator while I was on maternity leave. She worked very hard to ensure that our school ran smoothly. I love my job as a new mom, but am eager to return to another job that I love, being principal of St. Patrick School. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school at 705-335-3241 or through email at gmorgan@ncdsb.on.ca.

### EQAO Assessments

Over the next few weeks, students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 will be busy writing the annual EQAO

(Education Quality and Accountability Office) assessments. We have allocated 3 days for students to complete the 6 necessary sections (2 mathematics, 2 reading, 2 writing). If your child is in Grade 3 or 6, we would appreciate if you would ensure that they are present at school during these administration periods:

Grade 6—May 29, 30, 31

Grade 3—June 1, 4, 5.

If you have any questions about this assessment, please don't hesitate to contact the school or check out the EQAO website at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

### Mother's Day winners

Congratulations to the following people who won Scentsy gift baskets:

Rachelle Hachez, Bonnie Fifield and Deb McKay. Thank you to Mrs. Kandy Rhyno who donated the baskets and to all who bought tickets.



### Dressing for the weather

Due to the changing weather conditions, please ensure that your child dresses for the weather. Children will go outside for recess unless it is raining very hard or during a thunderstorm. This is a reminder that sunscreen and bug spray products should be applied before children come to school. On sunny days, ensure that your child has a hat and extra liquids to drink.

## BEAT THE HEAT

On Friday May 25th, popsicles will be on sale in the front lobby for .50 and \$1.00 during lunch recess. Children will be permitted to purchase a cool

treat in order to beat the heat. This will be a fundraiser for our school in Moosonee (Bishop Belleau School). Be sure to bring your money.



## Parent to Parent: Sick of School

As the days get longer and the weather warmer, the last place your child wants to be is in the classroom. Attention seems to drop as the thermometer rises. While your child may not have the same enthusiasm for school when spring fever strikes, mid-May to mid-June is a crucial time for them to stay on track academically. You should think of this time as the playoffs. This is when you really need to buckle down because your teacher is gathering marks for your final report card and you want to do your best work. Even when tests are over and report cards are filed, students are still soaking up those last bits of curriculum they need before they advance to the next grade. They're just doing it in a more relaxed environment.

Here are some tips to help your child be successful during the last 6 weeks of school.

### Stick to routine

As tempting as it is to slip into summer-relaxed mode, don't abandon the routines and structures you've relied on all year. Now that it's light outside later, the kids may be clamouring for you to move back bedtime, but they still need to be tucked in at a reasonable hour.

Regular routines, including healthy snacks and lunches, also help kids cope with the excitement of end of year treats and activities. It helps to reinforce that although things may be a little more free-form at school, your expectations and the teacher's expectations for behaviour are still the same.

### Take it outside

Research shows that spending more time outdoors improves children's concentration in school, lessens aggression and improves their ability to cooperate. Try moving homework outside whenever possible—your kids will enjoy the novelty and be less likely to complain. Draw math equations in chalk on the driveway, act out history lessons in the park or curl up on the front porch to read aloud as a family. All that fresh air and the opportunity to let off steam also makes tackling any remaining after-dinner homework and bedtime easier.

### Plan ahead

Get a head start on preparing your child to make the transition from one grade to another and from in-school learning to summer learning. If your child is struggling, schedule a meeting with the teacher to get some suggestions on enriching sum-

mer activities to help improve skills.

### Acknowledge progress

Encourage your child to reflect back on their school year and think about what they have learned, what was challenging, how they dealt with it and what they are proud of. It is a real motivator for kids when they look back at their work. It reinforces just how far they've come.

As the kids count down (and you do too!) start planning something special to mark the last day of class. It's important to end the year on an upbeat note, whether it's a school's out scavenger hunt or a picnic in the park or backyard complete with cake and balloons. School isn't just about academics, it's very much a social thing too. Kids need a chance to celebrate the friendships and relationships they've made in the classroom all year. After a year of packing lunches, overseeing homework and getting little dawdlers out of the door on time, parents deserve to join in the celebration too.

Source: Today's Parent (May 2012)



*“As the days get longer and the weather warmer, the last place your child wants to be is in the classroom”*



## Library Books—due by June 18th

The final day for school library books to be returned is on June 18th. Please ensure that you have returned all

overdue books so that Mrs. O'Reilly can complete all necessary inventory before the summer. If you have lost your library book, please contact

the school to arrange for repayment. A reminder from Mrs. O'Reilly: “Don't forget to enjoy your summer by spending some time reading!”

